5/24/68

AIRTEL

TO: SAC, MOBILE

FROM: SAC, MEMPHIS (157-1067) (P)

SUBJECT: BLACK ORGANIZING PROJECT (BOP), aka;
RM

For the information of the Mobile Division, the Memphis Police Department has recently been able to place an undercover officer using the code name MAX into the Black Organizing Project (BOP), the Black Power Movement in Memphis, Tenn., which is being investigated by both the Memphis PD and the Memphis FBI. These two agencies have been cooperating completely in this matter and have been exchanging information and much of the information furnished by the PD informant MAX has proved to be of inestimable value to this office.

On 5/23/68 Lt. E. H. ARKIN, who has been most cooperative with this Bureau, confidentially advised SA WILLIAM H. LAWRENCE that MAX recently married; his wife has a maiden name of LINDA HOLMES and until recently resided at 1445 Clementine, Memphis, Tenn., with her mother, Mrs. ELIZABETH HOLMES of the Clementine Street address. ARKIN has learned from MAX that his new wife is a teacher in the Memphis City School System and did her undergraduate college work at Tuskegee Institute, Tuskegee, Ala.

LEAD

MOBILE

AT MOBILE, ALA. As a matter of police cooperation, the Mobile Office is requested to search indices concerning LINDA HOLMES and also if feasible, conduct credit and criminal checks at Tuskegee, Ala., to determine whether or not she has any arrest record or has ever been involved in any activities of a security or racial nature which could create a problem for the Memphis Police Department.

2 - Mobile (RM)
1 - Memphis
WHL:mjh (3)

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157-1067-113

Lawrence

BLACK ORGANIZING PROJECT (BOP)

INVOLVEMENT IN FIRE BOMBINGS

On June 5, 1968, source two advised that on June 5, 1968, the Invaders, consisting of John B. Smith, Oree McKenzie, Murrell McCullough, Larry Davis, Richard Cabbage, Van Cabbage, Donney Delaney, Monroe Hinds Jr., Arthur Norwood, Verdell Brooks, Melvin Smith, Charles Ballard, Womax Lee Stevenson, Clinton Jamerson, James E. Phillips, Coby Vernon Smith, Emmett House, Hurley Gibson and Ben Berry, met to discuss their scheduled June 6, 1968, "operation." It was learned that they planned to fire bomb three to four groceries in the black area of southwest Memphis, including Sciara's Grocery on South Parkway West. Charles Cabbage and Milton Mack joined the group.

It was decided to let the younger Invaders, led by Richard Cabbage, finalize the plans. Richard Cabbage wanted to hold off, saying he had been followed by police but Norwood wanted to go ahead. Oree McKenzie, John B. Smith and Larry Davis were planning their alibis for the night of June 6, 1968. Voting to go ahead were Donney Delaney, Norwood, McKenzie, Davis and Womax Stevenson. Plans were to hit three white groceries with fire bombs simultaneously. Listed were Sciara's 254 South Parkway West, Downing's Grocery and a Chinese grocery.

On the evening of June 6, 1968, source one advised that at about 9:00 p.m. Ben Berry, Emmett House, Hurley Gibson and Larry Davis said, "Something is going to happen about 11:00 to 11:30 p.m. June 6, 1968."

On June 7, 1968, sources one and two advised that circumstantially three white groceries were fire bombed between 11:15 and midnight June 6, 1968. Sources advised that Invaders Verdell Brooks, Finus Bethel, John B. Smith, Oree McKenzie, Larry Davis, Melvin Smith, Emmett House and Hurley Gibson, as well as Charles Ballard and Murrell McCullough, established alibis by being at the Log Cabin Cafe, South Parkway West, beginning around 11:00 p.m., when Sciara's was fire bombed. Enroute to the Log Cabin John B. Smith said the Invaders were setting up something like the Mafia and he would call it the

157-8460-7

BLACK ORGANIZING PROJECT (BOP)

On July 29, 1968, source two advised that on July 27, 1968, John B. Smith was extremely sick from an overdose of "Dilandid," an injection drug, which he is now taking intravenously as is Charles Harrington. This, source stated, is called "mainlining."

On August 3, 1968, Lt. E. H. Arkin, Intelligence Unit, Memphis Police Department, advised that the Police Department Vice Squad, pursuant to search warrants for 1644 Hanauer, Apartment 2 (John B. Smith's apartment) and Apartment 3 (Lizzie Jones' apartment, Jones allegedly having been storing phenobarbital and marijuana for the Invaders), raided Apartments 2 and 3 on the night of August 2, 1968, after the Police Department received advance information that NOP payrollers would get paid August 2, 1968, and have a big marijuana party at John B. Smith's apartment.

Those the Police Department arrested at 1644 Hanauer, Apartment 2, were the following:

Marva Norman, Negro female born April 26, 1951, age 17 (a juvenile), residence 147 E. Fernwood. She said she had been going there for about a month. She was charged with disorderly conduct and turned over to Juvenile Court;

Murrell McCullough, Negro male born May 13, 1944, residing 1445 Pontotoc, a Memphis State University student, charged with disorderly conduct.

Verdell Ronald Brooks, Negro male born April 18, 1948, residing 1512 Ball Road, employed by Neighborhood Organizing Project (NOP) War on Poverty Committee, 161 Jefferson, charged with disorderly conduct.

Charles Harrington, Negro male born March 11, 1948, residence 2075 Rile, employed by NOP - WOPC, 161 Jefferson, charged with disorderly conduct.

157-8460-7

RE: INVADERS

Characterizations of Black Panther Party, Students for a Democratic Society, and Student Non-Violent Coordinating Committee, mentioned hereinafter in this communication, are set forth in the Appendix.

II. INVADER HEADQUARTERS

On December 17, 1968, Source One stated Invaders were moving from Clayborn Temple, AME Church, 280 Hernando, to a rented store front at 271 Vance. The Bishop of AME Church ordered Dr. H. Ralph Jackson, Director of AME Minimum Salary Division, 276 Hernando, and overseer of Clayborn, to get them out. Jackson, in order to pacify and at some time "use" Invaders, conspired with Reverend Ezekiel Bell, newly elected President of Memphis NAACP Chapter, to pay their rent. Jackson supplied the money, at $120 a month rent, ostensibly from the treasury of Community on the Move for Equality (COME), a group of Memphis Negro ministers. Bell, who is active in COME, along with JACKSON, gave the Invaders cash money with which to pay the rent.

The new building is rented from Alvin J. Reckenbacker, who operates a small furniture store at 275 Vance. The original lease showed Reverend Ezekiel Bell as lessee, showing the rental group not as Invaders but as a phantom group, "Community Organizing Project." He later deleted his name and listed two Invaders, Don Bigford and Marrell McCollough, as the lessees. The lease runs from December 23, 1968, to June 23, 1969.

Later on January 5, 1969, Sources One, Two, and Three advised the Invaders had moved into 271 Vance and obtained a telephone, number 527-5130

They added that records are maintained by Cacheatuh Undre Smith and Shirley Young and that Melvin Smith sleeps at the headquarters.

On January 6, 1969, Source One added that prior to moving to 271 Vance, Invaders, through the help of Reverend H. Ralph Jackson and Ezekiel Bell, had planned to move to 351 Vance and that Bell had rented the building from Van Court

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